

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067233
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05
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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:PWLANDE/MW
APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS
EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKYH(PHONE)
EUR/NE:JPSHUMATE (PHONE)
-----261810Z 127434 /45
R 260049Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET REPORT OF U.S. PURCHASE OF BANGLADESHI
ISLAND

1. PAKISTANI EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON DEPARTMENT OFFICER
MARCH 24 TO ASK FOR COMMENTS ON REPORT CARRIED IN "THE
SCANNER - A FORTNIGHTLY DIGEST OF CURRENT EVENTS IN THE
SOUTH ASIAN SUBCONTINENT", APPARENTLY A BRITISH PUBLICA-
TION. TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: ACCORDING TO RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS THE GOVERN-
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MENT OF BANGLADESH HAS SOLD THE OFFSHORE ISLAND OF ST.
MARTIN TO AMERICA. THIS OMINOUS NEWS WILL DOUBTLESS,
OVERWHELM EVERY PATRIOTIC BANGLADESHI WITH DEEP CONCERN.
WITH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF LATIN AMERICA, LAOS,
CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO VISUALIZE
THE DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AMERICAN MILITARY BASE ON OUR SOIL.

OUR COUNTRY AND OUR PEOPLE WOULD BE REDUCED TO BATTLE-GROUND AND CANNON FODDER OF THE IMPERIALISTS...IT IS WELL-KNOWN THAT AMERICA WANTED ST. MARTIN'S ISLAND AS FAR BACK AS 1970-71. BUT MR. FARLAND, THE THEN U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, FAILED TO PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN TO LEAVE THE ISLAND. EVEN CORRUPT AND INORDINATELY POWER-HUNGRY MUJIB REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE AMERICAN PROPOSITION. IT IS THEREFORE ASTONISHING THAT THE ZIA REGIME WHICH ROLLED TO POWER ON THE CREST OF A POPULAR UPSURGE LED BY SEPOYS AND ORDINARY PEOPLE SHOULD SURRENDER TO THE U.S. MANIPULATION...IT BEHOOVES THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO COME FORWARD IMMEDIATELY WITH A CLEAR STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER. END QUOTE.

2. WE TOLD PAKISTANI EMBASSY THAT THE REPORT WAS NONSENSE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON "THE SCANNER" AND WHETHER SUCH REPORTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED ELSEWHERE.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTIAMERICAN, PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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